

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/603,606	OGINO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Gims S Philippe	2613	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed on July 12, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-12,14-19,21-26,28-32,34-39,41-47 and 49-64.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 26 June 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

Allowable Subject Matter

1. After a further search and a thorough examination of the present application and in light of the prior art made of record, claims 1, 3-12, 14-19, 21-26, 28-32, 34-39, 41-47, and 49-64 are found to be in condition for allowance.

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The claims are allowable over the prior art of record since the cited reference taken individually or in combination fails to particularly disclose an image pickup apparatus comprising a convergence distance deciding means for deciding, on the basis of a detected object distance, a convergence distance indicative of a distance to an intersection point of optical axes defined by a pair of mirrors disposed symmetrically, and driving means for driving the pair of mirrors in such a way as to attain a decided convergence distance, and wherein the image pickup apparatus has a first mode in which the convergence distance is shorter than the object distance, a second mode in which the convergence distance is substantially equal to the object distance, and a third mode in which the convergence distance is longer than the object distance, and the convergence distance deciding means decides the convergence distance based on the basis of one of the first mode, the second mode and the third mode.

It is noted that the closest prior art of record (Ishikawa et al. US Patent no. 6549650) teaches a similar image pickup apparatus, however, Ishikawa et al. fails to particularly teach or suggest *"a convergence distance deciding means indicative of a distance to an intersection point of optical axes defined by a pair of mirrors which are disposed symmetrically, driving means for driving the pair of mirrors in such a way as to attain a decided convergence distance, and wherein the image pickup apparatus has a first mode in which the convergence distance is shorter than the object distance, a second mode in which the convergence distance is substantially equal to the object distance, and a third mode in which the convergence distance is longer than the object distance, and the convergence distance deciding means decides the convergence distance based on the basis of one of the first mode, the second mode and the third mode"* as specified in the claims.

Conclusion

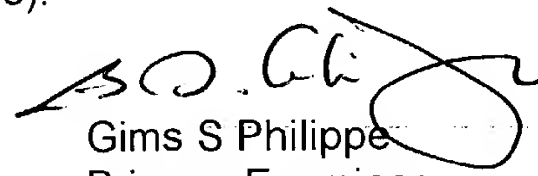
~~Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the~~
payment of issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submission should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gims S Philippe whose telephone number is (703) 305-1107. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30-7:00) Second Monday Off.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris S Kelley can be reached on (703) 305-4780. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Gims S Philippe
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2613

GSP

September 15, 2004
